

Alaska SLDS RFI Q&A

Questions asked during audio conference/WebEx hosted by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) on July 2, 2012

Note: During this audio conference, ACPE authorized an extension to the RFI response due date. New due date is July 23, 2012.

1. Can you expand on the relationship between the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and the University of Alaska system?
 - a. The commission and UA share the state's higher education executive organization role and responsibilities. However, unlike ACPE, the UA system is not a part of the executive branch of state government. ACPE and UA report to two separate boards, the Commission and the Board of Regents, respectively. However, there are members who sit on both the UA board and ACPE's commission, so there is coordination among the efforts of both agencies. In a follow-up to the question specific to data sharing and access, ACPE does not have either control or direct access to any UA data or databases.
2. Would it be possible to extend the deadline for submitting a response to the RFI?
 - a. Yes, we will extend the deadline until July 23, to accommodate time constraints resulting from the upcoming NCES conference. ACPE confirms this extension, but also requests that responses be provided as soon as possible, so that the information contained in them may be considered while a draft Request for Proposal is being created. ACPE will accept information submitted after the extended deadline but requests that vendors provide as much information as possible by the extended deadline.
3. If a vendor does not respond to the RFI, would this preclude them from responding to any future RFP related to the SLDS project?
 - a. No. The RFI is ACPE's request to solicit information and guidance from vendors with experience in SLDS development and consulting. Vendors may respond to the RFI, to an RFP only, or to both.
4. In responding to the RFI, if a vendor has historically provided services to clients through partnerships with other organizations, would ACPE prefer that the RFI response be sent from each vendor, or bundled together in a single response?
 - a. It is ACPE's preference that a single response be sent from the partnering vendors. However, this is not a requirement for response.
5. In the "Additional Questions for Respondents" section of the RFI, particularly question 1) which addresses potential problems and concerns based upon Alaska's geographic location and time zone differences with many Lower 48 vendors, do we want response that are specific to Alaska?

- a. ACPE is not requesting specific answers to this question. Rather, Alaska understands that geographic separation and time zone differences can impact a project, and would like any information and insights into how to minimize these impacts based on the vendor's prior experience. The intent of the RFI is to help ACPE understand the issues we might face and be best prepared to tackle them during the course of the SLDS implementation.